

10/064,531

1. (Currently Amended) A system for reserving manufacturing capacity to satisfy a customer deliverable order for a product, said system comprising:

a relational database tool adapted to receive said customer deliverable order; and  
a product manager tool operatively connected to said relational database tool, said product manager tool being adapted to obtain a block of part numbers from unallocated part numbers so as to allocate manufacturing capacity for said customer deliverable order, and to supply said block of part number to said relation database, wherein said relational database tool is further adapted to automatically prepare a bill-of-materials to satisfy said customer deliverable order using part numbers from said block of part numbers; and

a manufacturing tool operatively connected to said manufacturing planning engine, said manufacturing tool being adapted to begin manufacturing of sub-components corresponding to said bill-of-materials before design of said product is completed.

2. (Previously Amended) The system in claim 1, wherein said product manager tool changes manufacturing capacity based upon the part numbers obtained in said block of part numbers.

3. (Original) The system in claim 2, further comprising a customer engagement tool operatively connected to said relational database tool, said customer engagement tool being adapted to forecast a cost of, and delivery date for said product based on said bill-of-materials and said manufacturing capacity.

4. (Original) The system in claim 1, further comprising a manufacturing planning engine operatively connected to said relational database, wherein said manufacturing planning engine is adapted to design said product based on said bill-of-materials, wherein said relational database is further adapted to revise said bill-of-materials as designing of said product progresses.

5. (Canceled).

10/064,531

6. (Original) The system in claim 1, wherein said bill-of-materials includes at least one of: tools needed to manufacture said part; detailed measurements of said part; and structures needed in said part.
7. (Original) The system in claim 1, further comprising an add/obsolete tool operatively connected to said relational database tool, said add/obsolete tool being adapted to automatically delete unneeded part numbers from said relational database tool.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of reserving manufacturing capacity to satisfy a customer deliverable order for a product, said method comprising:
  - inputting said customer deliverable order to a relational database tool;
  - obtaining a block of part numbers from unallocated part numbers in a product manager tool so as to allocate manufacturing capacity for said customer deliverable order; and
  - automatically preparing a bill-of-materials in said relational database tool to satisfy said customer deliverable order using part numbers from said block of part numbers; and beginning manufacturing of sub-components corresponding to said bill-of-materials before design of said product is completed.
9. (Previously Amended) The method in claim 8, wherein said obtaining of said block of part numbers changes said manufacturing capacity based upon the part numbers obtained.
10. (Original) The method in claim 9, further comprising forecasting a cost of, and delivery date for said product based on said bill-of-materials and said manufacturing capacity.
11. (Original) The method in claim 8, further comprising, after said producing of said bill-of-materials:
  - designing said product; and
  - revising said bill-of-materials as said designing of said product progresses.

10/064,531

12. (Canceled).

13. (Original) The method in claim 8, wherein said preparing of said bill-of-material includes identifying at least one of: tools needed to manufacture said part; detailed measurements of said part; and structures needed in said part, based on said information within said relational database tool.

14. (Original) The method in claim 8, further comprising automatically deleting unneeded part numbers from said relational database tool.

15. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions readable by said machine for performing a method of reserving manufacturing capacity to satisfy a customer deliverable order for a product, said method comprising:

inputting said customer deliverable order to a relational database tool;

obtaining a block of part numbers from unallocated part numbers in a product manager tool so as to allocate manufacturing capacity said customer deliverable order; and

automatically preparing a bill-of-materials in said relational database tool to satisfy said customer deliverable order using part numbers from said block of part numbers; and

beginning manufacturing of sub-components corresponding to said bill-of-materials before design of said product is completed.

16. (Previously Amended) The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said obtaining of said block of part numbers changes said manufacturing capacity based upon the part numbers obtained.

10/064,531

17. (Original) The program storage device in claim 16, wherein said method further comprises forecasting a cost of, and delivery date for said product based on said bill-of-materials and said manufacturing capacity.

18. (Original) The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises, after said producing of said bill-of-materials:

designing said product; and

revising said bill-of-materials as said designing of said product progresses.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Original) The program storage device in claim 15, wherein said method further comprises automatically deleting unneeded part numbers from said relational database tool.